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FEB 12 1917

INDEXED.

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1916/17

The Williams PECAN

2.19

A Story of Its Origin
and Superior Character

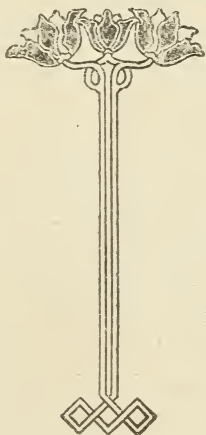
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From The Nut-Grower

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture



DR. W. P. WILLIAMS

INTRODUCER

Blackshear, Georgia

Price List of Trees, Bud Wood,
Scions and Nuts on Application

INDEXED

INDEXED

A Promising Pecan

It is our purpose in this article to write a brief story of the Williams pecan. The story as given by the discoverer and introducer, Dr. William P. Williams, of Blackhear, is full of interest, because it traces back to the purchase of the seed nut and has a recorded history for the past six seasons.

In 1903, a few Frotscher nuts of uniform character were procured by Dr. Williams from Mr. J. B. Wight, of Cairo, Ga. These were used as seed nuts and were planted on about half an acre of land in squares, where the twelve or more resultant trees now stand in orchard form. Some of these trees began bearing in 1911, or eight years from the seed. Among the early fruiters was the Williams. Practically all of these trees have now fruited, with as many different nuts as there are different trees. No two are alike and only two show resemblance to the Frotscher, although several are as large as the parent nut. One is scarcely larger than a chinkapin, but the Williams is one of the rare exceptions that prove the rule that pecans do not produce nuts from the seed equal in size and quality to those planted.

The Williams first attracted attention on account of its size. This was in 1911, when the first crop totalled 40 specimens, with an average weight of 49 nuts to the pound. In 1912 the crop was 160 nuts which ran 40 to the pound. The 1913 yield was 395 nuts which were somewhat lighter than those of the previous season, as they averaged 43 to the pound. In 1914, a favorable year, there was a marked increase both in the size of the nut and

the yield. There were 1584 nuts that season and the crop run was 36 to the pound, while selected specimens ran 29 to the pound. Thus the tree, in its eleventh year from the seed, produced 44 pounds of nuts in one crop. In 1915 the general crop of pecans was much below normal, but the Williams tree, although showing the effects of unfavorable conditions, continued to furnish a good record, 610 nuts, but owing to the dry season they were small enough to require 50 to the pound.

With this initial bearing record, the character of the nut and habits of the tree become of peculiar interest. In form the Williams is oblong, like most large nuts, but is markedly different from the ordinary large specimens in being well filled. Tests made in 1914 showed only 8 per cent of faulty specimens, while in 1913 only 5 per cent were defective. In 1915 there were no defective nuts.

The shell is distinctively thin and the cracking character ideal, while the quality of the kernel ranks high. The nuts are produced in clusters that average five to the twig, while seven are not uncommon. Thus far the tree has not failed to bear since it began in 1911. The nuts are quite uniform in size and in this particular are surpassed only by Moneymaker. While scab has been present in this orchard, the Williams has shown only a slight susceptibility to the disease. While the work of the case bearer was quite evident on various varieties, a single row of trees top worked to the Williams were so free from this insect that the foliage was in marked contrast to the adjoining rows. Vigorous and uniform growth of the tree is a marked characteristic of the variety, while the early bearing of top worked trees corresponds closely to the early bearing of the parent seedling. Trees top worked to this variety in 1912 and 1913 produced nuts generously in 1915.

These traits and characteristics are those that

go to make a desirable commercial variety. Quality, size and easy cracking make an ideal combination. Then when this is supplemented by a vigorous tree, exceptionally free from disease and insect depredations, with early, regular and abundant bearing qualities, producing a uniform grade of nuts, you have a combination, which, to say the least, will not only prove attractive, but valuable as well.

How well the Williams will do in other localities remains to be determined, but it certainly merits a trial all along the Gulf Coast country.

The Williams Pecan

Since the story of "A Promising Pecan" appeared in the June Nut-Grower, we have visited the original Williams tree, which, although the owner, Dr. W. P. Williams, lives at Blackshear, Pierce County, is a native of Ware County. The tree stands just a short distance from the city limits of Waycross and is about two miles from the office of The Nut-Grower.

The tree, which is a fine specimen for its age, was then carrying a crop which we estimated at seventy-five pounds. The tree has only a thirty foot space and is about the average size of the other trees of the same orchard. On measurement it was found to be thirty-nine feet high, with a spread of branches on one side of twenty-seven feet and thirty-eight feet on the other side.

Since then the crop has been gathered, giving a yield of 95 pounds. While, from several presumed causes, the nuts are smaller than in former years, still the run of the tree showed 53 1-2 nuts to the pound. There was only one faulty and nine shriveled out of one hundred nuts.

In 1913 nine seedling trees were top-worked to

FEB 12 1917

this variety with the following significant results:

	1916 Crop
No. 1 _____	21 lbs.
No. 2 _____	9 lbs.
No. 3 _____	7 lbs.
No. 4 _____	14 lbs.
No. 5 _____	19 lbs.
No. 6 was worked with equal parts of Williams and Stuart on lower part. Stuart produced 18 nuts on lower limbs; Williams on upper limbs _____	10½ lbs.
No. 7, with nine Moneymaker buds in tops and laterals yielded nine nuts, while three lower laterals on same with Williams gave _____	33 nuts
No. 8 with top set to Williams gave 10 lbs. Two laterals set to Frotscher did not bear any.	
No. 9 was top worked to Moneymaker and yielded _____	17 lbs.
Six similar trees top worked in Success produced but _____	11½ lbs.

There was practically no crop on the Frotscher and Jerome and very few on Van Deman or Stuart.

CONCLUSIONS

One acre of Williams of the character of the parent tree would have produced this year, 1916, 4655 pounds.

In a seedling grove of several hundred bearing trees, but two bore full crops. One of these was Williams.

In a young grove of budded trees containing nine varieties, but two bore commercial crops—Moneymaker and Williams.

W. P. WILLIAMS.